REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are currently amended, and Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, in original Claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 4-6 were objected to; and Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kabumoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,844,731, hereinafter "Kabumoto") in view of Thornton (U.S. Patent No. 5,938,317), and further in view of Shumake et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0205489, hereinafter "Shumake") and Schirer (U.S. Patent No. 6,155,325).

In response to the objection to Claims 4-6, it is noted that Claim 3 is amended to be dependent on Claim 1 only, Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 5 and 6 are no longer in improper multiple dependent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claims 4-6 be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection and traverse this rejection, as discussed below.

Amended Claim 1 recites:

> A method for manufacturing a light reflector plate, comprising:
>
> forming narrow cuts intermittently in a light-reflecting plastic foam film or sheet along a straight line in such a manner as to penetrate from one side surface of the film or sheet to an opposite side surface thereof;
>
> subsequently bending the film or sheet along the cuts to thereby obtain a bent reflector plate;

> inserting, into a hole or slit portion provided on the bent reflector plate, a claw-like standing portion having a width of 1 mm to 5 mm and a length of 3 mm to 20 mm and formed on an aluminum or steel plate having a thickness not greater than 1 mm; and
>
> bending the claw-like standing portion to fixedly join together the bent reflector plate and the aluminum or steel plate.

Amended Claim 1 recites the elements of canceled Claim 4. As stated in the original specification at page 7, lines 11-16, "in order to retain the shape of a three-dimensionally bent film or sheet, a claw-like bend portion is provided on an aluminum or steel plate; after insertion of the claw into a corresponding hole or slit portion provided on the film or sheet, the claw is, for example, bent forward or backward to thereby attach the film or sheet to the aluminum or steel plate." It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1.

Kabumoto describes a light reflecting plate 11 made of thermoplastic polyester foam manufactured by thermoforming the foam. A thermoplastic polyester sheet and a separator are stacked on each other and wound to form a roll.[1] The roll is then placed in a high-pressure vessel and held in a pressurized inert gas, thereby impregnating the inert gas into the thermoplastic polyester sheet.[2] The roll is then taken out of the high-pressure vessel, and the thermoplastic polyester sheet containing the inert gas is foamed by heating while the separator is removed.[3]

However, it is respectfully submitted that Kabumoto does not disclose or suggest "inserting, into a hole or slit portion provided on the bent reflector plate, a claw-like standing portion having a width of 1 mm to 5 mm and a length of 3 mm to 20 mm and formed on an aluminum or steel plate having a thickness not greater than 1 mm; and bending the claw-like

[1] See Kabumoto, at column 3, lines 60-61.
[2] See Kabumoto, at column 5, lines 4-7.
[3] See Kabumoto, at column 5, lines 25-28.

standing portion to fixedly join together the bent reflector plate and the aluminum or steel plate," as recited in amended Claim 1.

Instead, as conceded in the Office Action at section 3 on pages 2-3, "Kabumoto does not disclose the bending of the reflective foam in forming the reflecting plate. Kabumoto instead thermoforms the foam. Kabumoto also does not disclose the cutting of slits to enable folding of the reflector plate." Further, it is noted that Kabumoto does not disclose or suggest anything to hold the light reflecting plate 11 to the housing 12. The Office Action relies on Thornton to cure the deficiencies of Kabumoto.

Thornton describes a reflecting plate 250 for controlling the light emitted from lighting fixtures to reduce glare. Each reflecting plate 250 is bent along three transverse fold lines 258 to form a curved member.[4] Each reflecting plate 250 has a mounting hole 260 at its upper edge for receiving a fastener to secure the plate 250 to a support bracket 252.[5] The support bracket 252 acts as a screw to fasten the plate 250 to the interior surface 80 of a reflector 18. Also, each plate 250 has a bendable tab 264 at one of its bottom corners and a tab receiving hole 266 at its other bottom corner, such that a tab 264 of one plate 250 fits into the hole 266 of an adjacent plate 250.[6]

However, it is respectfully submitted that Thornton does not disclose or suggest "inserting, into a hole or slit portion provided on the bent reflector plate, a claw-like standing portion having a width of 1 mm to 5 mm and a length of 3 mm to 20 mm and formed on an aluminum or steel plate having a thickness not greater than 1 mm; and bending the claw-like standing portion to fixedly join together the bent reflector plate and the aluminum or steel plate," as recited in amended Claim 1.

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[4] See Thornton, at column 18, lines 41-45.
[5] See Thornton, at column 18, lines 47-50.
[6] See Thornton, at column 18, lines 50-58.

Instead, the reflecting plate 250 of Thornton is merely attached to the interior surface 80 of the reflector 18 by a support bracket 252. As stated in the original specification of the present application at page 8, lines 5-7, "Attachment by screws is also possible. However, when a number of fastening positions are involved, cost tends to increase, and thus the method becomes impractical." Further, as stated in the original specification at page 6, lines 16-20, "in order to retain the shape of a three-dimensionally bent film or sheet, a claw-like bend portion is provided ***on an aluminum or steel plate***." The bendable tabs 264 of Thornton are made in the reflecting plate 250 itself, and thus, cannot exhibit the shape retainability provided by a material like aluminum or steel, as recited in amended Claim 1. Thornton is silent with respect to the shape retainability of its reflecting plate 250.

Additionally, neither Shumake nor Schirer cure the deficiencies of Kabumoto and Thornton. Shumake describes a carrier portable display device 10 and Schirer describes a portable display board 10 for science fairs and the like. Further, it is noted that neither Shumake nor Schirer disclose or suggest inserting something through perforations in the respective display devices.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Kabumoto, Thornton, Shumake, and Schirer does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claim 1, and all claims dependent thereon, as unpatentable over Kabumoto in view of Thornton, Shumake, and Schirer be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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